

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Amend the second full paragraph on page 36 as follows:

Distal tip 226 of forceps arm 214 comprises sleeve ~~230~~ 231 having a thicker inner surface 244, which inner surface 244 may comprise an integral part of sleeve ~~230~~ 231 or a separate component that has been adhered to the inner surface of sleeve ~~230~~ 231. In a preferred embodiment of the invention, said inner surface 244 comprises a separate polymeric member or surface that has been glued or fused with sleeve ~~230~~ 231, optionally with molded ridges on the surface facing heating wire 228 to improve grip/tissue traction. Optionally sleeve 230 comprises a gripping inner surface so that the gripping surfaces are generally perpendicular to a plane defined by forceps arms 214, 216.